

Swamp Fox Scene

A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Volume 3, Issue 1

June 2012

'5-Alarm' fundraiser set to help firefighters

Hidden Acres Cabins will present the Marion County 5-Alarm Outdoor Beach Music Festival on June 30.

The festival is a fundraiser for all county fire departments.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased from any Marion County Fire Department and are \$15 pre-sale and \$20 at the gate. Visit Hiddenacrescabin.com for information. Find the 5-Alarm Beach Music Festival on Facebook to see who is attending!

Performing will be Jim Quick and Coastline Band and the Tim Clark Band.



ABB sponsors 2012 youth football camp

David Bennett to head 3-day program

City of Marion officials and local high school football coaches have announced plans for the David Bennett Football Camp sponsored by Anderson Brothers Bank.

The free camp, for players 8-14 years old, will run Tues-

school football coaching staffs in the county would help because of their commitment to the youth and their development in the sport. Pee Dee Academy Golden Eagles head coach Splinter Spivey said "Bringing the kids of the com-



Area prep coaches, city officials and Coach David Bennett meet to discuss the June 26-28 football camp in Marion. For details and to register, call 843-423-5410. Deadline to register is June 19.

Story & Photo by Naeem McFadden, Star & Enterprise

day, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8:30-noon, June 26-28, at the Green Street Recreation Park. Marion County prep football coaches, along with the possibility of appearances from former Coastal Carolina football players and current NFL players, will help with the camp.

Bennett, the 2010 Big South Coach of the Year, most recently spent 10 seasons building the Coastal Carolina University Chanticleer football program. His teams have earned three consecutive Big South Conference championships, 2004, 2005 and 2006. Five former players are in the NFL.

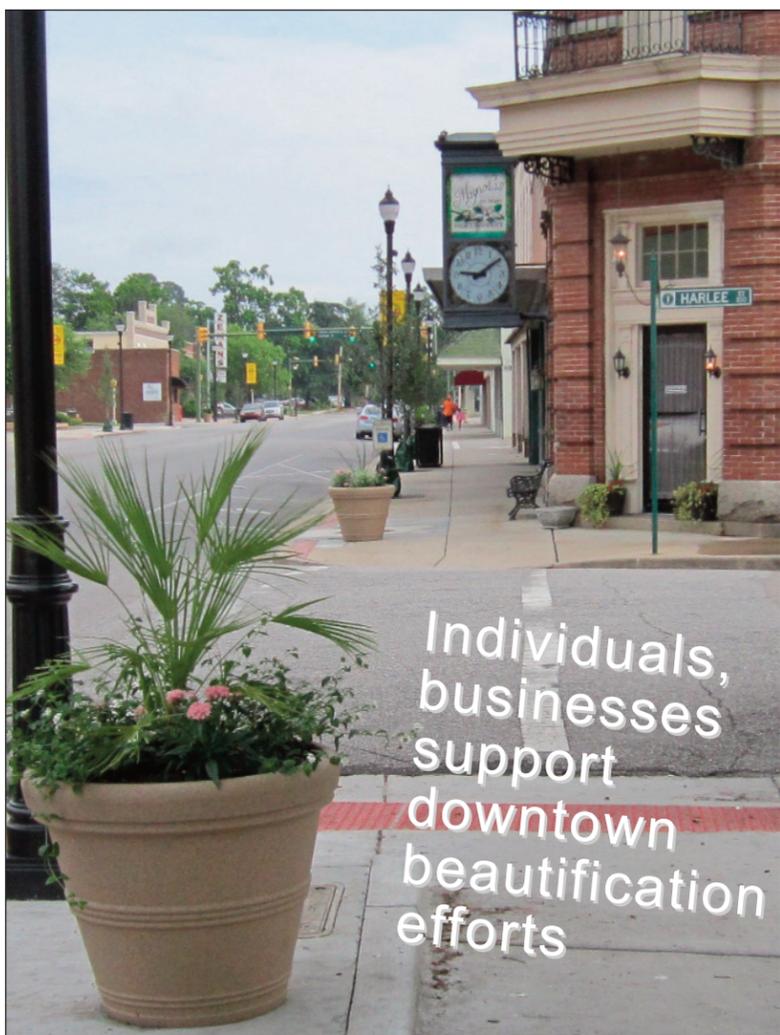
Bennett said the camp is to inspire kids to become "better kids, better citizens, better friends, better students and all of that comes before being an athlete. Then one day that will transpire to being a good professional, good husband and good father. I think that's why we're all here."

Berry said he knew high

munity together, I think, is going to be a neat thing to do." Mullins High School Auctioneers defensive coordinator Jimmy Vereen said the idea of a football camp is a great summer activity, giving young players something to do.

Marion High School Swamp Foxes head coach Don Cribb was happy to have the camp near the team's practice field. "It's just a great opportunity to show the community that we are about our young people," Cribb said. Creek Bridge High School athletic director Leon Sturkey said there is value in getting kids involved in something early and that teaching the fundamentals of football is going to help future county football programs.

Anderson Brothers Bank is underwriting the football camp and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes will be providing volunteer coaches as well. Registration ends June 19. For information call (843) 423-5410.



Seventeen planters, such as the ones shown above, have been purchased by individuals and placed along Main Street by Olde Towne Marion and the Marion Garden Club Council.

THE CITY'S NEWS



City selects firefighter as April's Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Firefighter John Richardson as its April 2012 Employee of the Month.

John has served the citizens of Marion County as a volunteer firefighter for the past 11 years and was hired by the Fire Department as a full time engineer in October 2011.

Also a member of the Marion Rescue Squad, he is active in the Fire Department's public education and fire prevention programs, going into schools and working with children. The Mayor and Council recognized John for his contributions to the City of Marion during the May 8 Council Meeting. John is shown at left.

Intern helping out at City Hall

This summer, the Marion area is welcoming eight interns from Duke University through its Benjamin N. Duke Scholarship.

The interns are living in Marion County at DW Outdoors for 10 weeks. This is the fourth year the program has placed students in the county. They are working with various groups, such as Hope Health Clinic and Pee Dee Coalition in Florence and the Mullins-based Wildlife Action.

The City of Marion is pleased to introduce Priyang Shah, an intern working in the Grants-Publicist's office with Dianne Owens on grant-writing and publicity for the City. Priyang, shown above at right, is also working with Gene Tucker at the Marion County Healthcare Foundation and with Rodney Berry at the County's Economic Development office.

In his first days on the job with the City Priyang has made updates to the City's website and Facebook pages.



Patrolman Andy Ellis

Department announces new hire

The Marion Police Department gained a new officer in May, Patrolman Andy Ellis. Andy was hired by the department in January 2012 and then attended the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. He graduated on May 11.

The Fair Bluff native, his wife Heather and their two children, have been residents of Marion for the past five years.

Police Chief Jim Gray said he is looking forward to working with officer Ellis.

"His employment helps to bring us to full capacity so we can better serve our citizens," he added.

Employees complete training, participate in run

In November 2010, as part of the City's employee wellness plan, employees were encouraged to participate in the Couch-to-5K fitness training program designed to get people prepared to walk or run in a 5K (3.1 miles). Several employees participated in that program and competed in the first *Historic Marion RunFest* in February 2011. The program was continued and in November 2011 a Couch-to-10K (6.2 miles) component was added. Several employees again participated in the second *Historic Marion RunFest*. Following that event, city employees Dianne Owens and Elizabeth Fick (shown at right) completed Half-Marathon (13.1 miles) training and recently participated in a run in North Myrtle Beach. Elizabeth finished the race in under two hours and Dianne finished in under three. Anyone interested in learning more about the fitness training programs should see Elizabeth, the City's personnel director and wellness program coordinator.



THE COMMUNITY'S NEWS

Marion Music Club awards Scholarship

Many in Marion may not be aware that there is a Music Club. Additionally, that club awards a music scholarship.

Congratulations to Mary Klauber, recipient of the Marion Music Club Scholarship for 2012.

Mary, shown below, is the daughter of Dr. Thomas and Beth Klauber. She has a sister, Caroline.



Mary is a leader of the junior class at Pee Dee Academy and holds the office of Secretary-Treasurer of her class. She participates in the School Chorus and is a Cheerleader. Membership in The Anchor Club allows her to serve the school and the community.

As an active member of First United Methodist Church, Mary is involved in the Youth Program and has attended Salkehatchie each of the past two summers. She enjoys dancing, running and swimming.

Her scholarship was based on her performance as she auditioned in dance, specifically "pointe." Mary has studied dance under Emmalyn Davis for the past 10 years.

The Marion Music Club awards a scholarship each year to a deserving student who chooses to further his or her musicality through continued study of music. Mary will also continue her lessons in dance.

For more information about the Marion Music Club, call Mrs. Walter Davis at 843-423-5858.

NEED HELP WITH CITY SERVICES?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to point you in the right direction ...

- Mayor Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235
- City Administrator, Building Official Alan Ammons, Ext. 19
- City Clerk Pam Jones, Ext. 10
- City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Ext. 18
- Municipal Court Clerk Heather Evans, 843-423-8616
- Personnel, Purchasing Director Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614
- Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11
- Recreation Admin Assistant Cheryl Askins, 423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's **free** monthly news magazine for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at (843) 765-4539

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

Visit Olde Towne Marion online @ www.theswampfox.com

Discover the Marion Chamber's Facebook page ...

Also on Facebook are The City of Marion and the Farmers Market & Market Place!

COMING UP!

Keep up with what's going on around Marion!

June 2nd

Saturday, 10 a.m., Marion County Technical Education Center, U.S. Highway 76: Marion County's Health Carnival & Job Fair ... FREE! Everyone is welcome.

June 5th

Tuesday, 6 p.m., Book Club, Meeting in "Lunch" on Dozier Street. First Tuesday of each month. Call Carol at 423-7000 for details.



June 12th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

June 22nd

Friday, 7 p.m., Mullins Downtown Live presents a Local Talent Show in a free concert at the Historic Train Depot on Main Street. Call 464-6651 for details.

June 30th

Saturday, 7 p.m. 5-Alarm Beach Music Festival at Hidden Acres; Advance tickets \$15; At the gate, \$20; Call Donny at 430-0332 for more information.

FOODs & FILMs ...

Contact Brian Nolan at 250-4322 about Marion's Foodie group or Film Club, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County and follow the groups on Facebook ...

>>>> Meetings for the Citizens Advisory Committee have been suspended for the summer. Next meeting is September 10.

MARION COUNTY DAY TO FEATURE HEALTH CARNIVAL AND JOB FAIR, JUNE 2

Gov. Nikki Haley and her Original Six Foundation are showcasing Marion on June 2 at the Marion County Technical Education Center on U.S. Highway 76 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The special day, focusing on health issues and jobs, is open to all. The Foundation hopes to help match families and

organizations that have resources to share with families and organizations with needs, crossing traditional boundaries in the state. The group is as a statewide initiative to help provide the tools and resources needed for distressed communities to grow economically. To learn more about the

Governor's Foundation, visit www.TheOriginalSixFoundation.org.

There will be exercise demonstrations, free food, health screenings, games, prizes and fun for the whole family, organizers say. Also, on-site resume preparation and numerous potential employers will be on hand.

City reminds business owners: License renewals are due

Section 1 of the Business and Professional License Ordinance for the City of Marion requires that every person engaged in any calling, business, occupation or profession within the limits of the City of Marion to renew the annual Business License fee and obtain a license.

The City of Marion Business License Renewal Applications were mailed on

May 30 and the current business licenses expire on June 30.

To get a 2012-13 Business License, a completed renewal application and remittance must be received in the City of Marion Business License Department by July 31 to avoid a penalty.

Penalties for late payment will be assessed on Aug. 1 and will increase

each month thereafter.

Failure to receive a renewal notice does not relieve the responsibility of the licensee from obtaining a Business License.

If you have any questions please contact Pam Jones, City Clerk, in the Business License Department at 843-423-5961.

Watsonia Recreation Center has senior aerobics and more

Senior Aerobics is offered at the Watsonia Recreation Center on Recreation Avenue each Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30am. The class is FREE of charge, but donations are appreciated. There is plenty of room for newcomers, so come on out and join in! If you're interested in this class, just come to a workout session and talk to Anna Boatwright. Call Cheryl at 843-423-5410 for more details.

Plan now and have your summer party in a Recreation Department facility

Are you looking for a good place to have a birthday party, anniversary dinner or a cook out? We might have the right place for you. For an indoor venue, we have Watsonia and Grice's Recreation Centers. For something outdoors, with plenty of running room for children, we have Pop Dorsey Park. Anyone interested in these locations can call 843-423-5410 to check availability of each one.

Get to know your City Council



RODNEY BERRY

Mayor

Mayor Rodney Berry was elected to his first four-year term in April 2009. His term ends in April 2013.

He can be reached at **843-423-8235**.



RONALD ATKINSON

Mayor Pro Tem
District 2

Council member Ronald Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He

can be reached by telephone at **843-230-0072**.



RALPH ATKINSON

District 1

Council member Ralph Atkinson was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be

reached at **843-250-0446**.



BETSY ATKINSON

District 3

Council member Betsy Atkinson was elected in April 2009. Her term expires in April 2013. She can be

reached at **843-430-1137**.



BOBBY DAVIS

District 4

Council member Bobby Davis was reelected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He

can be reached by telephone at **843-423-4655**.

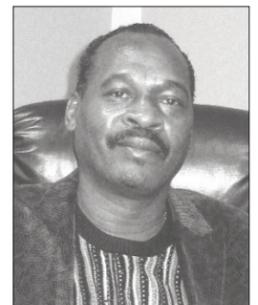


ODESSA GREGG

District 5

Council member Odessa Gregg was elected in April 2011 to fill an open seat. Her term ends in

2013. She can be reached at **843-423-4847**.



MICHAEL BAKER

District 6

Council member Michael Baker was reelected in April 2009. His term ends in 2013. He

can be reached by telephone at **843-597-3617**.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Get ready for cool Pool Time!

School is out and that means it's time for the pool to open at Grice's Recreation Center!

Keep a look out for more information about the openings and hours of operation for the city's pool. Rec Department employees are putting the finishing touches on the pool so it can be opened in early June, pending DHEC approval.

Remember to leave ALL personal items (radios, ipods, cell phones, game boys, etc.) at home. The City is not responsible for items that get stolen or broken during your visit to the pool.

For more information, call the Pool House at 843-423-9391.

Recreation plans Senior Bingo twice each month

Watsonia holds Senior Bingo the first and third Thursday of each month from 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

We offer refreshments for you to enjoy while playing bingo and there are prizes awarded with each winning bingo. We have plenty of spots available for newcomers so please don't think it's too late to join in on the fun!

Senior bingo is *FREE* to City of Marion residents.



Family Day 2012

Marion Recreation had its first Family Day at the Green Street Sports Complex on May 11. At left, Freddie McEachern and city employees Billy Thompson and Winky Fore, from left to right, chit chat while cooking food for the families and friends gathered. Four games were played during the evening for the crowd to enjoy, along with plenty of food. At left, a catcher readies to toss the ball back to the pitcher. Below, children and adults enjoyed the community outing that lasted from about 5:30 until 8:30 p.m.



Chamber recognizes Yard of the Month

Mrs. Edna Murray and Mr. Walter Davis, 320 E. Dunlop Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for May 2012. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mrs. Murray and Mr. Davis will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

2012 FoxTrot brought thousands to city



Photo by Andrew Golden, Star & Enterprise

The City of Marion comes alive in May each year when the FoxTrot Committee plans and executes a two-day festival. Several thousands visit, enjoying the food, rides, parade, petting zoo, exhibits and antique car show. For information about the Festival, call Chuck at 843-423-9918.